

California Employment Development Department—EDD, an estimated 170,000 Californians will exhaust their benefits by the end of 2009 if Congress does not act.

Not only are more workers losing their jobs, but it continues to be more difficult for the unemployed to find work again. The number of Americans who have been jobless for 6 months or longer has reached a record 5.4 million.

America has faced tough economic times before, including four periods of recession since 1980. During all of these recessions we see a disturbing pattern: laid-off workers exhausting their unemployment benefits. By the year's end, 1.3 million people across the nation will lose their unemployment insurance benefits, and 7,000 Americans are running out of benefits on a daily basis.

These are more than just statistics or numbers on a page. Every percentage, or data point, tells the story of another family impacted by downsizing, a factory shutting down, or a local small business forced to close its doors.

The numbers don't tell the full story of the pain, anxiety, and challenges out-of-work Americans are facing. Here are some personal examples from Californians who have written to my office.

A former Chemist from Solana Beach, California wrote:

I have a Masters in Chemistry in drug discovery and have worked for 15 years in this manner. And though I apply almost every day to any and all jobs I might be a candidate or hired (including entry level positions in and out of my field, waiter, grocery store, fast food, hardware store, etc) I have only had two interviews in the last 3 months and worked 2 weeks as a temp. No one wants to hire a Masters in Science for an \$8 per hour job even less in my traditional career. Please vote yes to extend unemployment insurance.

A single mother from Rio Dell, California wrote:

Please, PLEASE do what you can to help with the Federal extension for unemployment benefits. I will receive my final check in a matter of days. I am a single mother who is barely surviving and fear losing my place to live. I have already received one eviction notice from my landlord due to paying my rent late. I fear I will lose parental custody if I can't keep a roof over our heads. I have carefully documented my work search, but the hope of finding employment is dwindling along with my hope of providing the most basic necessities such as water, heat, and shelter as winter approaches. I live in Rio Dell where the base rate for water and sewer was just raised to \$90 per month. I'm now a month behind. I don't have a spouse or family to help me. I don't even have a car anymore. I know I'm not the only one in this position, but it is of little consolation. So please help. The farther a person gets down, the harder the climb back up. We are in a devastating situation that needs immediate attention and reparation. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration."

A former Postal Service employee from Grass Valley, California wrote:

Dear Ms. Feinstein, I am writing regarding the unemployment extension. I am a single mother struggling to keep my daughter clean, fed and in school. I was laid-off from the US Postal Service and have been des-

perately looking for work with no luck. Please urge your colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible and then work on possible inequities between the states. Thank you very much for your time.

These are only a handful of the nearly 2,000 letters my office has received. It breaks my heart to read such stories, and I am sure that many of my colleagues are hearing from constituents facing the same tough circumstances.

The situation for those in high unemployment states, such as California, is urgent, and, it is not just about preserving a social safety net or helping those who have paid into the system while they were employed. The unemployment crisis feeds the foreclosure crisis which leads to continued instability in the housing market which was the catalyst for the economic downturn in the first place. Put another way, the longer this legislation is delayed, the longer our economic recovery is delayed.

This extension is a targeted action that will quickly put money into the hands of those who need it most, and are most likely to spend it immediately on everyday necessities. According to Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Economy.com, every dollar spent on unemployment benefits generates a return of \$1.64. Given the gravity of the unemployment situation, we have an obligation to take responsible action. There is no time for further delay, or political gamesmanship.

Some will argue that we do not need to extend benefits again, but with the increasing unemployment rate, more job losses, and the jobless staying unemployed for longer periods, American families need a break. We must address the underlying causes of the economic instability facing our Nation. More incentives are needed to ease the flow of credit to businesses and consumers. Special attention must be given to the small businesses that in many communities are the primary engine for job creation and economic development. But, the choice before us today with this legislation is clear.

We should pass this legislation now.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide immediate assistance to out-of-work Americans and aid our Nation's economic recovery.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNET

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of an event that is referred to as the "birthday" of the Internet.

On October 29, 1969, Dr. Leonard Kleinrock of the University of California, Los Angeles, and his team successfully transmitted the first message to their counterparts at Stanford University, led by Dr. Douglas Engelbart, via a network system that was the predecessor of today's Internet.

I wonder if Drs. Kleinrock and Engelbart ever imagined the full impact and transformative nature of their experiment, not only on California and the United States, but also the world?

From those original tubes between UCLA and Stanford, the Internet has grown into a global network, facilitating important communication, commerce and services around the world. The Internet allows scientists to share research and findings. Consumers can shop almost anywhere in the world via the Internet and have their purchases delivered to their doorstep. Government services, from emergency information to registration of motor vehicles, can be accessed through the Internet.

The Internet has also been an important economic engine for our country, and I am proud that my state of California has been home to many innovators, such as Google and eBay, who transformed ideas into successful multinational businesses.

This anniversary also serves to remind us of the importance of collaborative research efforts between our government and universities, like the UCLA and Stanford. The first network system used by Drs. Kleinrock and Engelbart, called ARPANET, was developed through funding and collaboration between the universities and the Department of Defense.

Today, we must remember that universities and their researchers remain a vital resource in facing and solving the challenges of the future.

I want to close by congratulating the UCLA, Stanford University, and Drs. Kleinrock and Engelbart, for their hard work and contributions to the development of the Internet over the years. Forty years after that first successful message, the Internet continues to transform our lives and the world.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CLIFFORD HANSEN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the passing of Clifford P. Hansen, a former Republican colleague of mine in the U.S. Senate and a devoted public servant whose contributions to this august body and to his home State of Wyoming will not soon be forgotten.

Clifford Hansen, who was the Nation's oldest living former Senator until his passing this week at age 97, loomed as large on the Wyoming political landscape as his beloved Grand Teton do on the natural one. This one-time Governor of Wyoming and two-term U.S. Senator leaves an impressive legacy of legislative achievement.

Clifford was born in Zenith, a town so small that it no longer appears on